Guidance on Cleaning your CUB

The purpose of this guidance is to provide information on the effective decontamination processes for the **C**omfortable **U**pright **B**irth (**CUB**) support.

The aim of this document is to:

- Identify the correct methods of cleaning and decontamination of the CUB
- Reduce the risk of cross infection.

What is the CUB?

The CUB is an inflatable class 1 medical device that is designed to be used by women during late pregnancy, labour and birth as a comfort support and positioning aid. This is similar to birth balls, bean bags, birth stools and cushions or pillows. Its rationale lies in the extensive research base on the clinical advantages for mothers and babies in utero of women adopting non-supine positions during labour and birth. These positions include kneeling, all fours, squatting and upright sitting. The CUB may, or may not be, used during the birth itself and may or may not come into contact with contamination of body fluids, depending on when it is used and the position the mother adopts for the birth itself.

What is the CUB made of?

The CUB is manufactured from PVC which is the same material as many hospital chair seats and hospital bed mattresses. PVC is commonly used in healthcare for screening, diagnosis, treatment and care, as well as in building safe healthcare environments. In fact, nearly 30% of all plastic-based medical devices are made of PVC. Whenever plastics are used in direct contact with the patient's tissue or blood, a high degree of compatibility is essential between the tissue/blood and the material. PVC is characterized by high biocompatibility. PVC is compatible with virtually all pharmaceutical products in healthcare facilities today. It also has excellent water and chemical resistance. Not only does PVC offer the flexibility necessary for applications such as blood bags, mattresses or intravenous (IV) tubing, but it can also be relied upon for its strength and durability, even under changing temperatures and conditions. These properties are essential to provide convenience in use by healthcare professionals and performance thereby benefiting patient comfort and quality hospital care.

CUB Risk Assessment

<u>The CUB is a low risk product in terms of potential for cross infection.</u>
This risk assessment is based on the criteria used below from The Medicines Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), formally the Medical Devices Agency. The MHRA produced this risk assessment tool that categorises the risk an instrument or equipment being used poses to an individual based on the area of the body on or in which it has been used.

The risk assessment tool is as follows:

HIGH RISK	•Items in close contact with a break in the skin or mucous memebrane or introduced into a sterile body area e.g. surgical instruments •These instruments **MUST** be sterilised and be sterile at point of use
INTERMEDIATE	•Items in contact with intact skin, mucous membranes or body fluids, **particularly after use with infected patients or prior to use on immunocomprimised patients e.g. speculums** •Equipment/instruments must be cleaned and sterilised between uses. But these items need not be sterile at the point of use
LOW RISK	•Items in contact with healthy skin or mucous membranes that are not invasive e.g. thermometers, chairs or environmental surfaces •Cleaning with general purpose detergent or chemical disinfection where appropriate.

We recommend chemical cleaning of the CUB between each user

Suitable cleaning agents

A suitable cleaner includes any cleaner currently utilised in your work place that is used for general cleaning of patient beds, commodes or chairs, these include makes of:
Antibacterial spray or wipes
Sporicidal spray or wipes
***Hypochlorite**.
*This includes Milton ® sterilisation fluid. Milton Fluid is made of an aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite and 16.5% sodium chloride. The Milton Fluid that is available to buy is 2% sodium hypochlorite. If necessary the cub can be decontaminated, deflated and immersed totally in Milton solution for 15-30 minutes, but should not be left in the solution for longer. Both inflation valves must be tightly closed during immersion to prevent water entering the body of the CUB.

Definition of terms

Contamination
Defined as the soiling of inanimate objects or living material with harmful, potentially infectious substances. In the clinical situation this is most likely to be organic matter (e.g. blood, faeces etc.)
Decontamination of the CUB
As a reusable medical device the CUB can be used for more than one episode but should always undergo some form of decontamination process between each user.
The decontamination should consist of the cleaning and disinfection process below.
Sterilisation of the CUB
The CUB is a low risk product in terms of potential for cross infection and as such does not require a sterilisation process. This risk assessment is based on the criteria used from The Medicines Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), formally the Medical Devices Agency.

The decontamination process for the CUB

We recommend that a clean, disposable incontinence sheet is placed onto the CUB if the mother is sitting on it and has any PV loss that may come into direct contact with the CUB . The CUB should be thoroughly cleaned between users using the process below.
Personal protective equipment **(PPE)** such as gloves and aprons should be worn during the cleaning process.

While the CUB is still inflated:

- **Rinse** off all visible surface contamination with a clean, disposable cloth and water; paying attention to the area around the seams and valves and including the base. There should be no visible contamination left.
- **Dry** the CUB with a clean disposable cloth, such as household kitchen towel or paper hand towels.
- **Spray** or wipe with an antibacterial cleaner, a bleach solution or wipe thoroughly with antibacterial household cleaning wipes.
  Allow the CUB to air dry completely before deflating and storing.
- The CUB is manufactured from PVC which is the same material as many hospital chair seats and obstetric bed mattresses. A suitable cleaner includes any cleaner currently utilised in the work place that is used for general cleaning of patient beds, commodes or chairs, these include makes of:
- **Antibacterial spray or wipes**
  Sporicidal spray or wipes
  Hypochlorite

LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

• Microbiology Advisory Committee to the Department of Health (1997) *Sterilisation, Disinfection and Cleaning of Medical Equipment: Guidance on Decontamination* Medical Devices Agency.

• Department of Health. (2009). *Health Technical Memorandum 01-01: Decontamination of reusable medical devices.* Department of Health. London

• epic3: *National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England* H.P. Loveday, Journal of Hospital Infection 86S1 (2014) S1–S70

• Microbiology Advisory Committee to the Department of Health (1997) *Sterilisation, Disinfection and Cleaning of Medical Equipment: Guidance on Decontamination* Medical Devices Agency

• Health and Safety Executive (1992) *Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations: Guidance on Regulations.* The Stationary Office, London.

• Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

• Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002.

• Medical Devices Agency (August 2000) *Single Use Medical Devices: Implications and Consequences of Re-use*

• The Health and Social Care Act 2008 *Code of Practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and related guidance.*

• Royal College of Nursing. (2011). *The Selection and use of disinfectant wipes.* London

• Royal College of Nursing. (2013). *Creating a safe environment for care*. Defining the relationship between cleaning and nursing staff. London

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